

Message Text

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ATTN PARIS FOR JACK MARESCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. KOREA

REUTER (4/17) REPORTS DOS' RESTON CONFIRMED USG SENT LTR
TO ROKG DENYING ALLEGATIONS THAT US BUGGED BLUE HOUSE.
SPOKESMAN REFUSED COMMENT ON LTR'S CONTENTS, HOWEVER.

WP'S CHAPMAN (SEOUL) SAYS SKOREAN PROTESTS AGAINST ALLEGED
BLUE HOUSE BUGGING SUBSIDED AFTER AMEMB FORMALLY DENIED
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INCIDENTS OCCURRED/EXPRESSED REGRETS THAT FALSE REPORTS HAD
INCONVENIENCED ROKG. IN TELEPHONE INTERVIEW 4/17, FORMER
US AMB PORTER--WHOSE STATEMENTS ON C0S/TV FIRST OPENED
SPECULATION RE BLUE HOUSE BUGGING--SAID REPORTS THAT HE HAD
CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF LISTENING DEVICES WERE "SLOPPY
JOURNALISM." SAID HE CONFIRMED NOTHING/MERELY STATED HE
HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT BUGGING W/O REALLY KNOWING WHETHER IT
ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

2. JAPAN

JAPAN'S 3.1-BIL-DOL TRADE SURPLUS IN MARCH BRINGS TOTAL
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE SURPLUS TO 14.1 BIL DOLS (MARTIN,

SUN TOKYO). REACTING TO ANNOUNCEMENT, FUKUDA SAID 4/16
JAPAN COULD CUT ITS DOL SURPLUS FROM US TRADE DRASTICALLY
IN '78/THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS PROBLEM W/PRES CARTER AT
WASHINGTON TALKS IN EARLY JUNE (LAT 4/16).

MITI RESEARCH DIRECTOR GYOTEN PREDICTS JAPAN WILL CONTINUE
POST SUBSTANTIAL INTL TRADE SURPLUSES DURING FY'78.
BELIEVES EVEN IF IMPORTS INCREASE, SURPLUSES WILL BE
LARGER THAN GOJ EXPECTED BECAUSE VOLUME '77 EXPORTS MUCH
LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED (THARP, WSJ TOKYO; CULLISON, JOC
TOKYO).

GOJ SOURCES SAY GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL STUDYING FEASIBILITY
OF STOCKPILING CRUDE OIL HAS WARNED TRANSPORT MINISTRY
THAT MOORING TANKERS OFF JAPAN'S COAST WOULD REQUIRE
CONSTANT ATTENTION TO PREVENT MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL
DISASTERS. OPPOSITION IN DIET EXPECTED SEIZE UPON
REPORT'S NEGATIVE FINDINGS IN ATTEMPTS PREVENT STOCK-
PILING SCHEME FROM EVER BEING REALIZED (CULLISON, JOC
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TOKYO).

AN ANNUAL WHITE PAPER, AGRIC-FOREST MIN SAYS THERE IS
LITTLE ROOM LEFT FOR JAPAN EXPAND FARM PRODUCTS IMPORTS/
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER TO ALTER COUNTRY'S FOOD POLICY
BASED ON SHORT-RANGE MOVEMENTS. REPORT DISCOUNTED
INCREASED FARM PRODUCTS IMPORTS AS MEANS REDUCE TRADE
SURPLUS (UPI, JOC).

DATSUN PRICES IN US WILL RISE 5.4 PCT, EFFECTIVE 4/27.
MOVE SEEN DUE YEN'S STEEP APPRECIATION AGAINST DOL (REUTER
TOKYO).

LEFT-WING JAPANESE RR WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE TUES IN
COUNTRY'S YRLY TRADE UNION SPRING OFFENSIVE FOR HIGHER
WAGES. 48-HR STOPPAGE HIT ESTIMATED 450,000 TRAVELERS
(REUTER TOKYO).

POLICE HAVE CHARGED 98 OF 114 EXTREMISTS ARRESTED IN
CONNECTION W/DAMAGE TO NARITA AIRPORT (GLOBE 4/17).

3. CHINA

PRC HAS MADE 2ND PURCHASE US WHEAT THIS YR OF 400,000
METRIC TONS. GRAIN TRADERS/WHEAT GROWERS SPECULATE CHINA
MAY BE PREPARING BUY NEARLY 6 MIL METRIC TONS FROM US
BECAUSE OF POOR HARVEST/FACT ITS USUAL SUPPLIERS CAN'T

MEET ITS ADDED NEEDS (REUTER 4/17; WSJ).

EARLIER THIS WK, PRC PURCHASES 15,000 METRIC TONS US SOYBEAN OIL, ACCORDING RELIABLE EXPORT SOURCES (COMMODITY NEWS SERVICE, JOC).

SOMALI PRES BARRE LEFT PEKING FOR HOME 4/18 AFTER SIGNING ECON/TECHNICAL COOPERATION PACT W/CHINA. NO DETAILS OF AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED (REUTER PEKING).
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PEKING HAS ENGAGED COPENHAGEN'S EAST ASIATIC CO TO HELP MODERNIZE CHINA'S MERCHANT FLEET/PORT FACILITIES (WSJ).

LOCKHART (LAT HK 4/16) DOES FEATURE ON PRC'S NEW OPEN DOOR POLICY FOR TOURISTS. NOTES ANY OF 3 BASIC PRC TOURS REQUIRES NO ADVANCED RESERVATIONS OR COMPLICATED VISA PROCEDURES. REMARKS NOW CHINA "HAS JOINED THE TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD."

4. THAILAND/CAMBODIA

REUTER (BANGKOK) REPORTS FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT BETWN THAI/CAMBODIAN FORCES ON THAILAND'S EASTERN BORDER. ACCORD TO POLICE, RTG HAS SENT IN REINFORCEMENTS.

5. CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

VIET NEWS AGENCY REPORTED SRV HAS AGAIN TOLD CAMBODIA IT WISHES NEGOT BORDER SETTLEMENT (GLOBE 4/17).

6. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

VIET REFUGEES FROM LEAKY BOAT CLIMBED ABOARD SUPPLY SHIP OF EXXON OIL RIG OFF MALAYSIAN COAST. GOM SENT 4 NAVY VESSELS TO TAKE THEM OFF, SAID NAVY WOULD TRY REPAIR BOAT SO 261 COULD RESUME VOYAGE. UNHCR IN KL, HOWEVER, OFFERED GROUP TEMPORARY SHELTER (LAT 4/16). FIFTY-THREE OTHER VIET REFUGEES ADRIFT IN SMALL BOAT HAVE BOARDED JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL IN MID-OCEAN AFTER THREATENING DROWN THEIR CHILDREN IF THEY WERE NOT TAKEN TO JAPAN, ACCORD JAPANESE COAST GUARD (GLOBE TOKYO 4/17).

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7. BURMA

MORE THAN 100,000 CONVICTS WILL BE USED TO BUILD NEW 430-MILE, 8-LANE EXPRESSWAY BETWN RANGOON/MANDALAY. WORK STARTED MONDAY W/5,000 WORKING ON 1ST 28 MILES OF BURMA'S

BIGGEST ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN RECENT YRS (REUTER RANGOON).

8. SINGAPORE

REUTER'S DANIEL (SINGAPORE) DOES FEATURE ON SINGAPORE BUS SERVICE AND GOS SCHEME FOR LISTING SERVICE ON STOCK EXCHANGE/OFFERING TRAVEL CONCESSIONS TO THOSE WHO BUY SHARES IN IT. SAYS GOS HAS DECLARED IT WANTS RAISE 8.7 MIL DOLS TO UPGRADE SYSTEM'S EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES.

9. GENERAL

GOA SOURCES SAY UK/FINLAND/PHILS/JAPAN COULD SIGN NUKE AGREEMENTS W/AUSTRALIA BEFORE YR'S END ENABLING THEM BUY AUSSIE URANIUM. GOA HAS GIVEN NO DETAILS OF SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT. SOURCES ALSO SAID JAPAN DELAYING SERIOUS NEGOTS UNTIL IT SEES RESULTS OF PACT W/UK/FINLAND/PHILS (REUTER CANBERRA).

US EX-IM BANK HAS CLEARED SOME 1.2 BIL DOLS IN DIRECT LOANS IN LAST 6 MONTHS. AMONG RECENTLY APPROVED LOANS WERE 106.8 MIL DOLS TO ROC FOR NUKE POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT/22 MIL DOLS TO SK FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT (WSJ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. INDONESIA

IN INTERVIEW W/NYT'S KAMM (JAKARTA), INDO PM ADAM MALIK UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID PRINCIPAL TASK FACING SUHARTO IS STRENGTHENING OF NATL UNITY AGAINST "VERY STRONG PRESSURE" FOR MORE ISLAMIC STATE. REFERRING TO CONTINUED DOMINANCE OF MIL IN GOVT/ADMIN, HE SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD LIKE MORE CIVILIANS IN GOVT, THAT WHEN POL SITUATION IS NORMAL, SOME MIL MUST RETIRE. HE REFERRED TO CORRUPTION AMONG OFFICIALS AS "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY," SAYING HE WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF INSPECTORS GENERAL OF VARIOUS MINS/WOULD INVESTIGATE MANY STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES. ON SUBJECT HUMAN RTS, MALIK SAID PARLIAMENT WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE LAW DEALING W/DETENTION POL OPPONENTS, THAT SUHARTO WOULD SUPPORT LIBERALIZING CHANGES. HE SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO RAISING HUMAN RTS ISSUE BY US, BUT WARNED AGAINST INTERFERING IN INDO INTERNAL POLITICS.

11. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

NYT EDIT (4/15) SAYS CARTER ADMIN SEEMS FINALLY PREPARED PROVIDE LONG-TERM APPROACH FOR US ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES BY

APPROVING NEW LIMIT OF 50,000/INDICATING HE WILL OVERRULE
DOJ/REP EILBERG TO PAROLE ANOTHER 25,000 INTO US IN

COMING YR. EDIT CALLS FOR STILL MORE ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS
OF BOAT PEOPLE, LAOTIAN/CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND,
RESETTLEMENT IN US/ASIA.

ALSO IN NYT, STEPHEN YOUNG, FORMERLY W/AID IN VN, SAYS HE
RECENTLY INTERVIEWED VIET/CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND
AS MEMBER CITIZENS COMMISSION ON REFUGEES/FOUND THEY DO
HAVE CLEAR PREFERENCES AMONG POL IDEAS THAT WERE AT
STAKE DURING WAR, THAT THEY FLED THEIR COUNTRIES AS
AFFIRMATION OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY. SAYS THEY
STRONGLY SENSE THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD HAVE SOME
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PRIVATE DOMAIN--SOCIAL, POL, ECON--INTO WHICH COMMUNIST
PARTY SHOULD NOT TREAD. SAYS IN THAT SENSE WAR NOT
CAUSED BY UNILATERAL AMERICAN IMPOSITION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST
CRUSADE. SAYS FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE REFUGEES IMPLIES
INDIFFERENCE TO DECENCY THAT THEY ASSERT.

12. INDOCHINA BORDER CONFLICTS

ACCORD LAT'S MCARTHUR (BANGKOK 4/15), CHINESE MIL PRESENCE
IN CAMBODIA HAS GROWN TO SIGNIFICANT FORCE IN LAST 6
MONTHS/HAS BECOME SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN SEASIAN
DELICATE POWER BALANCE. QUOTES DIPLO SOURCES THAT
CAMBODIANS HAVE ACCEPTED MORE CHINESE THAN THEY WANT IN
EFFORT TO IMPROVE CAMBODIA'S ARMY BECAUSE OF CONTINUING
BORDER CLASHES. SAYS LATEST EXAMPLE CHINESE INFLUENCE
IS INSTALLATION RADAR NETWORK AROUND PP/RUNNING OPRNS AT
POCHENTONG AIRFIELD/UPGRADING RAILWAY LINE FROM PORT TO
PP WHICH CAMBODIANS UNABLE DO SINCE QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS
PURGED. DESPITE VIET NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY ALONG BORDER,
SAYS MIL EXPERTS CONTEND HANOI PROBABLY LACKS STRENGTH
TO MAKE ANY OVERWHELMING STRIKE IN FACE NEW STRENGTH
CAMBODIANS. CONTENTS MANY REPORTED MIL ENGAGEMENTS ARE
"PURELY RADIO BATTLES."

IN ANOTHER LAT ARTICLE (NONG KHAI 4/16), MCARTHUR
DESCRIBES UNDERCOVER WAR TAKING PLACE ON THAILAND'S
BORDER W/LAOS/CAMBODIA WHERE "WIDE RANGE OF CLANDESTINE
ACTIVITIES" GOING ON WHICH "EVERYBODY NATURALLY DENIES."
SAYS NEW STYLE FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA EMPHASIZES SPECIAL
OPRNS--CLANDESTINE RAIDS, SECRET JUNGLE CAMPS, SMUGGLED
ARMS, INFILTRATIONS, PROPAGANDA WORK.

13. VIETNAM

GLOBE RUNNING SERIES OF PIECES ON THE SIXTIES EXCERPTED
FROM BOOK BY DAVID HALBERSTAM, NYT CORRESPONDENT IN VN

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DURING WAR. APRIL 16 PIECE LOOKS AT PRESS COVERAGE OF
WAR/REPORTERS BELIEF THAT IF THEY TOLD THE TRUTH PEOPLE

WOULD LISTEN. CONTENTS HE WASN'T SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO
KNOW THAT OFFICIALS WEREN'T TELLING TRUTH BECAUSE THEY
DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

14. CHINA

COHEN (LAT 4/16) BELIEVES REPRESSIVE CONDITIONS IN PRC
NEED NOT BLOCK NORMAL RELS W/US. SEES "GANG OF 4" CRUSADE
AS PEKING'S WAY OF DISAVOWING GOVT'S WIDESPREAD ABUSES
DURING PAST GENERATION. TERMS CAMPAIGN "DE-MAOIFICATION
PROCESS THAT IS LESS DISRUPTIVE THAN DE-STALINIZATION"
WAS FOR USSR. COHEN STATES RATHER THAN EXCLUDE PRC FROM
OUR HUMAN RTS POLICY AND THEREBY LAY OURSELVES OPEN TO
CHARGES OF HYPROCRISY/EXPEDIENCY, PRES CARTER SHOULD POINT
TO MOUNTING EVIDENCE FROM PRC OF ITS DESIRE CURB ARBITRARY
RULE/GOVT'S ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO THAT DESIRE.

GREENBREG (WP) CITES PRC'S EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE/ITS PUSH
TO CLOSE GAP W/WEST. STATES CHINESE ESTIMATE THEY ARE
NOW 15-20 YRS BEHIND SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES OF WEST, BUT
HOPE NARROW GAP TO 10 YRS BY '85/BE ON PAR BY 2000. FINDS
NO REASON DOUBT CHINA'S DETERMINATION/ABILITY BRING PLAN
TO FRUITION. SAYS WHEN THIS HAPPENS, CHINA'S VOICE IN
WORLD AFFAIRS WILL COMMAND RESPECT THAT IS NOT NOW
PRESENT.

FROM MOGADISHU (GLOBE 4/17) DRAFT RECALLS SOMALIA'S
RECENT COUP/TROUBLE BARRE HAS HAD IN SEEKING AID/ARMS FROM
BOTH US/USSR. VIEWS BARRE'S CHINA VISIT AS WAY OF TURNING
DOWN BOTH SUPERPOWERS. HOWEVER, OPINES PRC CANNOT REALLY
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HELP IN SOMALIA'S NEEDS. BELIEVES BARRE WILL EVENTUALLY
TURN BACK TO US/ASK WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE SECURITY COVER
FOR NEUTRALIST--THO PRC-BACKED--SOMALIA.

15. CHINA/JAPAN

CSM'S MORITZ (HK) DOES ITEM ON SENKAKU ISLS DISPUTE. FINDS
SOME HK ANALYSTS WHO SPECULATE "GANG OF FOUR" REMNANT
SUPPORTERS MAY HAVE ORIGINATED FORAY INTO DISPUTED WATERS
FROM NEARBY PROVINCE. OTHERS DOUBT THIS HYPOTHESIS,
POINTING TO FACT THAT SHIPS ARMED W/POL BANNERS/GUNS MUST
HAVE HAD AT LEAST TACIT SUPPORT FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES.
IN ANY CASE, MOST AGREE DISPUTE HAS SEVERELY CLOUDED

CHANCES FOR EARLY RESUMPTION JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP
TREATY.

JAMESON (LAT 4/16) FINDS ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF OVERCOMING
JAPAN'S POVERTY/BACKWARDNESS--"CATHING UP WITH THE WEST"--
STAGGERING. OBSERVES AS JAPAN'S AFFLUENCE CONTINUES GROW,

MORE ATTENTION WILL PROBABLY BE PAID TO PRESERVING NATURE
ON PUBLIC LEVEL. BUT NOTES JAPAN UNLIKELY DEVELOP "PUBLIC
AESTHETICISM" WHICH WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO PRESERVATION OF
NATURE OVER PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE LIVELIHOOD, IF CHOICE
BETWN THEM BECOMES NECESSARY. CHRISTOPHER

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